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► **Tamil Nadu hooch tragedy till mounts to 39**

- The death toll in the hooch tragedy in one of the worst cases of hooch tragedies reported in TamilNadu climbed to be 39 .
- The victim includes 4 women .
- The toll is likely to increase with many persons undergoing treatment in serious conditions .
- About 120 persons are currently admitted to hospital .
- The tragedy occurred in Karunapuram in Kallakurichi districts.
- The prime accused who supplied the killer brew has been arrested by CB CID .
- Alcohol that is used to drink is generally Ethanol . Methanol is another intoxicant , which when mixed in alcohol can cause liver failure , blindness and even death .
- Many times Methanol is mixed from outside in a drink to increase its potency . If Mixed above certain amount . It becomes deadly .



► **Patna high court strikes down 65% quota in Bihar**

- The Patna high court has set aside the 65 % quota for OBC , SC , ST category .
- In November , 2023 Bihar Assembly had passed a bill that increased reservation from 50% to 65% .
- Together with EWS quota the reservation goes to 75% .
- In Indira Swahney case , SC had imposed reservation limit to 50% .

► **Govt to set up panel to help improve NTA , says Pradhan**

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday said that the alleged irregularities of

- the recently held NEET and cancelled (UGC NET) was an " institutional failure of " National Testing Agency " .
- He said that a reform committee will be formed to suggest improvement in NTAs working .
- The re test will be conducted for the cancelled UGC NET test .
- The UGC NET test was cancelled after Home Ministry 's Indian Cyber Crime Coordination centre (I4C) informed leakage of paper on the dark net .
- The minister said that while anti cheating Bill was passed last year , the law ministry was firming up the rules and " very soon , we will come up with stringent rules . " .
- " I take responsibility for the NEET paper leak and whoever is responsible will not be spared

► **Bhartruhari Mahtab named pro tem speaker**

- President Draupadi Murmu has appointed Bahrthuruahri Mahtab a seven time MP from Cuttack , the pro tem speaker .
- Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju said on Thursday .
- Congress raised the issue that according to convention the MP who had served the highest number of terms should have been appointed as pro tem speaker .
- The senior most member in the 18 th Lok Sabha is K Suresh from Congress party , and Virendra Kumar from BJP . Virendra Kumar is in the Union cabinet . So Congress demand was for K Suresh to be the pro tem speaker .
- Pro tem speaker – Article 95 (1) of the constitution talks about pro tem speaker .
- A pro tem speaker will act as speaker till new speaker is elected . He will administer oath to all the elected Mps .

► **5400 Myanmar take refuge in Manipur**

- Fearing " aerial bombardment and attacks " about 5400 people from Myanmar have taken shelter in Kamjong district of Manipur , Assam Rifle director Pradeep Chandran said the Hindu .
- He said that it is highly likely that they will return as the situation in Myanmar normalises .
- Earlier Many migrants from Myanmar had been reported to be sheltering in Mijoram , Manipur and Nagaland .



► **Delhi court grants bail to Arvind Kejriwal**

- Rouse Avenue court of Delhi has accepted the regular bail plea of Arvind Kejriwal . He has been given regular bail .
- Flood affected children to soon get ' school in a box ' .
- Flood affected children are set to get ' school in a box ' in model relief camps in Assam .Such a box or Child Friendly Space (CFS) kit contains learning materials other items for ensuring continuity in education .
- The kit has been designed by UNICEF .
- The kit first will be provided to 167 model relief camps where floods and landslips caused 31

WORLD

➔ **Rutte seal NATO top job after lone rival drops out**

Mark Rutte , the former long time serving Prime Minister of Netherlands , is set to be the next NATO chief .
 He will take over current chief Jens Stoltenberg on October 1 .
 The candidacy of Mr Rutte was backed by USA , France , Germany and most of the NATO members . Turkey and Hungary were the two NATO members which initially didn't agree on Mr Rutte candidacy .
 NATO has 32 member countries . Most of them are European countries . Turkiye being the only Asian country to be a NATO member.

➔ **In Sri Lanka , Jaishankar reviews energy projects**

EAM. S Jaishankar is currently in Sri Lanka .
 EAM S . Jaishankar along with Srilankans President Ranil Wickramshinghe on Thursday inaugurated Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC) and handed over houses built by Indian assistance .
 He held meeting with Srilankan leadership .
 The projects under focus were :
 • Proposed plan to link petroleum pipelines between the two countries , advancing gas and oli exploration .
 • It was announced that construction of the Sampur power plant is set to commence on July 2024 .
 This is the first foreign trip of S. Jaishankar after elections . He also met his Srilankan counterpart Ali Sabri and leader of Opposition. Sajith Premadasa .

➔ **Hamas can not be eliminated , says Israel's top army spokesperson**

- Israel's top army spokesperson on Wednesday said that Hamas can not be eliminated
- n an interview with an Israeli broadcaster Rear Admiral Danial Hagari said , " To say that we are going to make Hamas disappear is to throw sand in people's eyes . If we don't provide an alternative , in the end , we will have Hamas . "
- He further added , " Hamas is an ideology . We cannot eliminate an ideology . "
- His comments were quickly rebuffed by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu who has defined his goal as destruction of Hamas's military and governmental capabilities .
- French Chinese aircraft to hunt down universe's most powerful explosions
- Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM) a French Chinese telescope satellite will blast of this month on a mission to hunt down gamma ray missions .
- The SVOM mission is to use its X ray vision to track down the source of gamma ray burst .
- Gamma ray bursts are the most powerful explosions in the universe . The light from these explosions have travelled billions of years to reach earth. The mission can tell the answer of the universe when the universe was young.
- The mission shows the scientific cooperation between west and China , when the relation is

